70. The method of claim 69, further comprising repeating steps (b)-(d) to produce a population of T cells increased in number of from about 100- to about 100,000-fold the original T cell population.

REMARKS

Claim 1 was pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 45-70 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1 and 45-70 are currently pending. For the Examiner's convenience all of the pending claims are set forth in Appendix A. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification including the originally filed claims.

At paragraph 2 of the pending Office Action, the Examiner has requested that the specification be amended to update the status of priority documents. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the specification to update the status of priority documents. Applicants submit that the amendments to the specification are sufficient to overcome the Examiner's objections to the disclosure and respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

No new matter has been added. Any amendments to and/or cancellation of the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and was done solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

Double Patenting Rejection Of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C.§101

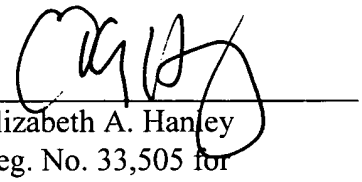
The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 5,858,358.

Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned rejection has been rendered moot in view of the amendments to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this statutory type double patenting rejection of claim 1 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' Attorney would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A

1. A method for inducing $CD8^+$ T cells within a population of T cells to proliferate, comprising:

a) activating a population of T cells; and

b) stimulating an accessory molecule on the surface of the T cells with a ligand which binds the accessory molecule, the activating and stimulating steps thereby inducing proliferation of the $CD8^+$ T cells within the T cell population.

45. The method of claim 1, wherein the population of T cells is activated by contacting the T cells with an anti-CD3 antibody.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein anti-CD3 antibody is an anti-human CD3 monoclonal antibody.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the anti-CD3 antibody is immobilized on a solid phase surface.

48. The method of claim 1, wherein the population of T cells is activated by contacting the T cells with an anti-CD2 antibody.

49. The method of claim 1, wherein the population of T cells is activated by contacting the T cells with a protein kinase C activator and a calcium ionophore.

50. The method of claim 1, wherein the accessory molecule is CD28.

51. The method of claim 1, wherein the ligand is an anti-CD28 antibody.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the anti-CD28 antibody is an anti-human CD28 monoclonal antibody.

53. The method of claim 1, wherein the accessory molecule is CD9.

54. The method of claim 1, wherein the ligand is an anti-CD9 antibody.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein the anti-CD9 antibody is an anti-human CD9 monoclonal antibody.

56. The method of claim 1, further comprising contacting the T cells with an antigen or portion thereof.

57. The method of claim 1, further comprising

c) monitoring proliferation of the T cells in response to continuing exposure to the ligand; and

d) reactivating and re-stimulating the T cells when the rate of T cell proliferation has decreased to induce further proliferation of the T cells.

58. The method of claim 57, further comprising repeating the steps (c)-(d) to produce a population of T cells increased in number of from about 100- to about 100,000-fold the original T cell population.

59. A method for stimulating $CD8^+$ T cells within a population of T cells to proliferate, comprising

a) contacting a population of T cells with

(1) a first agent which stimulates a TCR/CD3 complex-associated signal in the T cells; and

(2) a second agent which stimulates an accessory molecule on the surface of the T cells.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein the first agent is an anti-CD3 antibody.

61. The method of claim 60, wherein anti-CD3 antibody is an anti-human CD3 monoclonal antibody.

62. The method of claim 60, wherein the anti-CD3 antibody is immobilized on a solid phase surface.

63. The method of claim 59, wherein the second agent is an anti-CD28 antibody.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein anti-CD28 antibody is an anti-human CD28 monoclonal antibody.

65. The method of claim 59, wherein the second agent is an anti-CD9 antibody.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein anti-CD9 antibody is an anti-human CD9 monoclonal antibody.

67. The method of claim 59, further comprising:

b) separating the anti-CD3 antibody from the T cells and second agent;

c) monitoring proliferation of the T cells in response to continuing exposure to the second agent; and

d) re-stimulating the T cells with the anti-CD3 antibody and the second agent when the rate of T cell proliferation has decreased to induce further proliferation of the T cells.

68. The method of claim 67, further comprising repeating steps (b)-(d) to produce a population of T cells increased in number of from about 100- to about 100,000-fold the original T cell population.

69. A method for stimulating $CD8^+$ T cells within a population of T cells to proliferate, comprising:

a) contacting a population of T cells with an anti-CD3 antibody, an anti-CD28 antibody, and an anti-CD9 antibody, under conditions appropriate for proliferation of the T cells;

b) separating the anti-CD3 antibody from the T cells and the anti-CD9 and the anti-CD28 antibody;

c) monitoring proliferation of the T cells in response to continuing exposure to the anti-CD9 and the anti-CD28 antibody; and

d) re-stimulating the T cells with the anti-CD3 antibody and the anti-CD9 and the anti-CD28 antibody when the rate of T cell proliferation has decreased to induce further proliferation of the T cells.

70. The method of claim 69, further comprising repeating steps (b)-(d) to produce a population of T cells increased in number of from about 100- to about 100,000-fold the original T cell population.